

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated October 4, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 4, 2007. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-54 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 1-15 and 40-42 stand withdrawn by the Examiner. Claims 16 and 28 have been amended. Applicants submit the amendments do not add new matter. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 16-17, 24, 44 and 46-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,724,389 B1 to *Wilen et al.* (hereinafter, "*Wilen*") in view of US 6,202,039 B1 to *Finger*. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Examiner bears the initial burden of establishing a prima facie case of obviousness. See MPEP § 2142. To establish a prima facie case of obviousness three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine the reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Third, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. See MPEP § 2143.

The present rejection fails to establish at least the third criterion. For example, the references, even when combined as suggested in the Office Action, fail to teach "a plurality of signal paths, including at least a first set of signal paths adapted for interfacing the field-changeable graphics card to a plurality of output display panels and a second set of signal paths for interfacing the integrated graphics processor to the

plurality of output display panels" and *"a plurality of stuffing resistors to select between closing the first set of signal paths while leaving the second set of signal paths open or closing the second set of signal paths while leaving the first set of signal paths open"*, as recited in independent claim 16.

The Examiner acknowledges in the Office Action that *Wilen* does not disclose the use of stuffing resistors for interfacing a graphics card to a plurality of output devices. The Examiner relies on *Finger*, however, as teaching the use of "stuffing instructions" to allow the production line selection of final product parameters and options (e.g., capacitor values for filter responses, LED arrays, and the like). Applicants respectfully submit, however, that the "stuffing instructions" described in *Finger* do not teach using resistors to select between closing a first or second set of signal paths, as recited in the claims.

Thus, Applicants submit claim 16, as well as those claims that depend therefrom, are allowable and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 43 and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wilen* in view of *Finger* as applied to claim 16 in the Office Action, and further in view of US 6,731,514 B2 to *Evans*. Claims 18-23 and 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wilen* in view of *Finger* as applied to claim 16 in the Office Action, and further in view of US 6,555,745 B1 to *Kruse et al.* (hereinafter, "*Kruse*"). Claims 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wilen* in view of *Finger* as applied to claim 16 in the Office Action, and further in view of US 2004/0228365 A1 to *Kobayashi*.

Each of these claims depends, directly or indirectly, from claim 16 which Applicants submit is allowable, for reasons described above. Applicants also submit that shortcomings of *Wilen* and *Finger* described above are not overcome by teachings of *Evans*, *Kruse* or *Kobayashi*. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit these claims are also allowable and request withdrawal of these rejections.

Claims 28-39 and 49-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wilen* in view of US 7,024,601 B2 to *Quinlan et al.* (hereinafter, "*Quinlan*"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The present rejection fails to establish at least the third criterion of an obviousness rejection. For example, the references, even when combined as suggested in the Office Action, fail to teach "*a plurality of signal paths, including at least a first set of signal paths adapted for interfacing the field-changeable graphics card to a plurality of output display panels and a second set of signal paths for interfacing the integrated graphics processor to the plurality of output display panels*" and "*a plurality of muxes to close the first set of signal paths while leaving the second set of signal paths open when a presence of the field-changeable graphics card is detected*", as recited in independent claim 28.

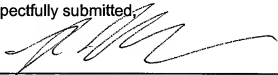
The Examiner acknowledges in the Office Action that *Wilen* does not disclose the use of muxes for interfacing a graphics card to a plurality of output devices. The Examiner relies on *Quinlan*, however, as teaching a digital visual interface (DVI) that uses "a plurality of multiplexors." Applicants respectfully submit, however, that the multiplexors are not used to *close the first set of signal paths while leaving the second set of signal paths open when a presence of the field-changeable graphics card is detected*, as recited in claim 28. In contrast, the multiplexors taught in *Quinlan* are used to selectively apply pseudo-random binary sequence data to output lines of the DVI during a test mode (see col. 5, lines 29-39).

Thus, Applicants submit claim 28, as well as those claims that depend therefrom, are allowable and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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